

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.
 Business Office.....216 E. Main Street
 News Office.....1105 Hull Street
 Petersburg Bureau.....109 N. Sycamore Street
 Lynchburg Bureau.....215 Eighth Street

BY MAIL. One Six Three One
 POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mos. Mos. Mo.
 Daily with Sunday.....\$4.00 \$1.00 \$1.00
 Daily without Sunday.....3.00 1.00 1.00
 Sunday edition only.....5.00 1.00 1.00
 Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—

One Week.
 Daily with Sunday.....14 cents
 Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
 Sunday only.....6 cents

Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1910.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE INSURGENTS.

Now and then George Bailey, of the Houston Post, has lucid moments. We wish he had more of them; for, in spite of irreverence, he really can do good work. Hear him:

"It is said that President Taft has extended the olive branch to some of the refractory Senators of his party. If he would take our view he would use a bludgeon with spikes in it on these fellows."

President Taft was probably brought up on Webster's old Blue Back Spelling Book, and he will remember the story told in it about the old man who tried persuasion upon the boys who were robbing his apple orchard, and finding that soft words would not affect them in their course, he knocked them out of the tree with stones which lay conveniently at hand. There have been a good many reports from Washington about how the President has been "snuggling up" to the insurgents, how he has called them into counsel and begged their pardon and hoped that they would forgive him, and all that; but if he has done any of these things, and we doubt it very much, he has made a mistake. The club is not a very attractive weapon to carry around with one. It is awkward and heavy, and cannot be concealed, there is no place to put it when one wants to sit down and no place to carry it conveniently when one wishes to stand up, and we should prefer the stiletto to the stick. It means a great deal closer fighting, but at the same time it means more effective fighting, and that is better than battering up one's adversary or being battered up in turn.

Mr. Taft will not be able to make anything out of the crowd who have been antagonizing him, we mean the crowd within his own party; people who are fortunately on the outside have the right to antagonize him, and it is their duty to antagonize him; not personally, of course, for he is a very lovable man, but because of his politics and the party of which he is the head and front. If he should make a treaty of peace with the traitors in the ranks of his own party, he could have no assurance that they would not break the terms of the agreement. The thing, therefore, for him to do is to keep his head, to follow his own judgment, to do what he thinks is right, and, God helping him, to stand.

WHY IOWA HAS LOST.
 "Lafe" Young is one of the new Senators at Washington. He was appointed by the Governor of Iowa to succeed the widely lamented Jonathan P. Dolliver, and if he is as successful in saying things in the Senate as he has been in speaking his thoughts through his newspaper—The Des Moines Capital—he will make an impression on the country as he has made upon his newspaper constituency. The population of Iowa has not kept progress with the rest of the country, and the loss of population in that State is charged by Mr. Young's paper to the progressive legislation of the last ten years. Speaking in the Capital paper Wednesday evening, he, or the man he has left in charge at Des Moines, made this very frank and truthful explanation of the cause of the decadence of Iowa:

"Something like ten years ago a wave of Populism began to sweep over the State. The doctrine began to be exploited that the functions of government were being perverted to wrongful ends. Men who knew a mighty right better began to stimulate the ancient prejudice which teaches that they who have much should be looked upon with suspicion, while those that have much less must be given the benefit of the doubt."

"This state of mind began to find expression in new legislative enactments, the chief aim of which was to antagonize property rights, rather than to safeguard those who through economy and industry had managed to acquire it."

The surest way to destroy the prosperity of a State or a community is to legislate against such prosperity. People who are seeking residence, people who are investing capital, people who would promote industry, are not to be attracted by destructive legislation or convinced by self-seeking demagogues. The country is beginning to learn this lesson, but the tuition has cost enormous loss to our industrial life. We are glad that there is one voice in Iowa, one of the centers of disturbance, that does not hesitate to tell the truth. If there were more plain speaking of this sort it would result in immense gain to the country. The newspapers have it largely in their power to educate public opinion. Said a wise man—a man intimately connected with great industrial and commercial interests, writing from Philadelphia, several days ago: "When we have responsibility in the editorial and news columns of the press, then we

will have responsible leadership in politics and business."

SWELLING THE FUND.

The issues of the Congressional Record for Monday and Tuesday were received yesterday by thousands of people in every part of the nation. There are no interesting speeches in these pages, but a random perusal of the list of bills introduced will reveal the fact that about 1,500 new pension bills were presented in the first two days' session. Most of these are for increases in pensions, while some are for new pensions and others are to "correct the record" as to certain soldiers or near-soldiers or never-were-soldiers.

At this rate, there will be many thousands pension bills before Congress at even this short session. The enormous quantity of these bills will afford little opportunity for proper inspection of the merits and demerits of these claims and will allow but little effort in the way of detection of fraud.

The pension bill goes grinding on, wasting the public money at every step, pouring wealth into the grasping hands of those who have no just claim in law and fact to reward.

Take, for instance, the bills to "correct the record." That is a short cut to graft. The pretended soldier or the ex-home guard gets in by this route to plunder and pilage the treasury. The official records do not mention them, but they gather evidence of a doubtful or spurious nature, use it as a lever by which to prize open a place for them in the official records, and are enrolled as regular soldiers.

The genuine veterans are passing rapidly. President Taft in the message which he sent to Congress on Monday declared that old soldiers are dying at the rate of 3,000 the month, and pointed out that the rate of deaths is increasing inevitably as time passes. Nevertheless, after forty-five years of silence and inactivity, new names are being added to the pension rolls, reminding us very much of that wise saying of Dr. Johnson, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

One of the best things that President Taft said in his message was: "Care should be exercised not to go to absurd lengths (in the matter of pensions), or distribute the bounty of the Government to classes of persons who may at this late day, from a mercenary motive, seek to obtain some legal relation with an old veteran now tottering on the brink of the grave."

This utterance did not go to the root of the matter, nor did it touch upon the most iniquitous features of the pension system, but it recalled to the American public that many scheming young women and women of middle age are marrying these veterans with an eye single to securing a widow's pension for the probably long remainder of their lives when their husbands have died. Such a relation is hardly matrimonial, in fact, in many cases the relation is not one formally recognized by the law or by religion.

This gigantic fraud takes many forms and ramifications. It ought to be investigated, and it is to be hoped that Congress will look into the matter thoroughly and order it investigated from top to bottom. The Government in this matter is carrying paternalism too far. More and more "pension" is becoming a synonym for graft and for theft in the guise of patriotism.

A GREAT WORLD POWER NOW.

In noting the death of H. H. Brockway, the last of the old-time New York landlards, the Waterbury American says very truly: "The identity of the proprietor is no longer important in the New York hotel. Onyx columns and skill in sweetbread sous cloche contribute much more effectively to the satisfaction of patrons. The only personalities which count are those of the headwaiter and the bartender."

But our Waterbury friend forgets that we are a nation now, a great World Power, filled with aspirations which, in the circumstances, we cannot achieve, but a World Power just the same. With the primitive virtues there has departed the simple ways of the old-timers which made life very sweet and health very good, because in the days of better cooking the food was suited to the human stomach, and not to the demands of Frenchy names on illuminated cardboard. There are few places left in New England, we believe, where men can be fed on good food, but even New England is yielding to the demands of our National life.

WILSON IN THE WEST.

Writing to the Editor of The Times-Dispatch from away out at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, an old Federal soldier, who spent four years in Virginia during the War, and who has "a very warm side for the Old Dominion and her people, though they killed my horse and made me very uncomfortable while with them," says: "If the South goes solid for Governor Wilson, a great son of Virginia, it will mean that the Republicans must not put up a scrub."

There was never a truer thing said than that, and the Democratic party could not name a candidate for President who would appeal more strongly to the people of this whole country than Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey. He has grown immensely in popularity and influence since his marvellous campaign in Jersey, and he is going to keep on growing.

LATEST THING IN NIGHT GOWNS.

Three effective models for home-made night-gowns are recommended by the esteemed Boston Herald. They are all empire or semi-empire in cut, although this style is said to be not becoming to stout women. The material for the body of the gown may be of finished muslin, but it is permissible for the skirt which lies soft and falls to the trimmings to use dull or shiny batiste instead of nainsook. It should be noted, however,

that nainsook wears better than mull or batiste, and for this reason, if no other, it is fair to presume that nainsook will be largely used in Texas. The simplest design is reached by cutting the empire bodice of the material, fitting it smoothly, but not so tight that it will look drawn, and, this having been done, the neck should be cut around or in a shallow square, and puff sleeves added to the elbow. The confection can be trimmed, bodice and sleeves, with motifs of lace or embroidery set on in irregular double rows or in any desired shape. If medallions are used they should be first basted on carefully and then applied with tiny buttonhole stitch, after which the material underneath may be cut away. If hard work is asked, the medallions can be worked in by fine bair stitching or the shape above the edge can be outlined by a line of chain stitch. In this case the neck and sleeves should be finished with lace or embroidery heading to match motifs and cover the joining of bodice and gown. In some instances a frill of lace at the neck and sleeve is found more becoming than the medallions, and this frill can be overcast scantily to the heading after the gown is finished, which would seem to be a very clever way of getting around the medallions with the bair stitching, or even the chain stitching. If the frill should be adopted, a wide was ribbon should be run through the heading and be finished with fluffy rosette at the left side of the neck and waist and on the outer part of the arm.

A more elaborate gown, with bodice of Swiss or batiste and four-inch insertion to match, joined by narrower insertion of lace, is made; but we do not think we should like to wear it so well as the plainer, but the less comfortable gown of nainsook. The body or skirt of this sort of gown is made of two strips of cloth, so that the edges of the embroidery shall face the points, "being joined all the way up the back and far enough up the front to get into easily and leave a becoming surprise effect." We should not like that at all, and especially as the outer edges are to be sewed in a seam under the arms and the sleeves are to be bell-shaped.

Both of these models would do well enough in Boston, but there is no reason why any such Yankee notions should be adopted in this law-abiding part of the country. At this season of the year we should think that the patient would be more comfortable with something a little thicker.

EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD ATTEND.

One of those rare opportunities which come to the people of Richmond to hear about the method by which the schools of Richmond may be bettered and broadened and made greater is presented to-night, when, at 8:15, Professor Charles Zuehlbin lectures on "The Twentieth Century School." This address will be delivered in the auditorium of the John Marshall High School, and should be heard by all who have the welfare of the school children and the schools of Richmond at heart. By great effort this eminent speaker has been induced to come here, under the auspices of the Richmond Education Association, and as admission will be free to all, there is no reason why he should not have a splendid audience to-night.

An eloquent speaker, a master of his subject, a recognized authority in his line, Professor Zuehlbin should have a representative and large audience to-night. In other cities he has soyn profitable seed, and it is to be hoped that he can do so here.

THE VALUE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

Just a little while ago a man in the Ohio penitentiary was convicted of murder and sentenced to die on December 31. There was a strong chain of circumstantial evidence against the man. The prosecuting attorney evidently believed that the man was guilty and convinced the jury, apparently, that he was. The judge, in pronouncing the death sentence, must have felt that justice was being dealt out. The jury must have thought that it had found the truth, even giving to the prisoner the benefit of all doubts in the case. The community perhaps thought that justice had been done.

It now has come to light that the man condemned to death is innocent. The real murderer has confessed. He owned up just in time to save the life of the condemned man. Confession is too often delayed until it is of no avail to either the innocent or the guilty.

The annals of crime are filled with such instances. A large-sized book has been issued telling of instances where innocent men have suffered the death penalty for crimes which they did not commit. Such cases are not the only arguments against capital punishment. The law is not always sure in its findings.

SCHOOL CHILDREN AS A POLITICAL WEAPON.

According to the speech of John L. Lee, of Lynchburg, made in that city Wednesday night, the school children of that city are being used by the prohibition element there as "a political weapon" against one-half of the people of that city. We think that Mr. Lee was right in asking the people of the III City, "Why do you stand for this?"

Whether the people of the city are "dry" or "wet" in their beliefs, they have to pay for the support of the schools. They are taxed for that purpose. The school authorities have no right to line up the pupils against any one class or patrons and supporters of the schools. To parade the children, and train them to sing local option hymns on the streets of Lynchburg today is a procedure in which the school authorities, if they shall do it, will overstep their bounds and exceed the authority delegated to them.

It demonstrates the absolute intolerance of those who claim to be for

temperance. I say it is an outrage to put into the minds of little children that which will tend to engender strife and bitterness," said Mr. Lee on Wednesday night, and he was right. If the school children, as such, did these things under the direction of school officers, using their authority to carry out this plan, then these officers deserve the severest censure.

The duty of a school teacher is to teach. It is none of his business, in his official capacity, what the political issues are in his town. He has a right to take one side or the other personally, but he has no right to implant prejudicial ideas into the minds and hearts of the young. That is for the preacher, not for the teacher.

If the parents of children wish to send them out to sing and parade, it is another matter; but it is a matter with which the teachers have nothing to do. The best thing the teacher can do, he he ever so zealous for prohibition or local option, is to let these things alone, so far as the pupils are concerned. It is a well settled principle in the United States that the public schools shall not be abused for the purpose of extending the doctrines of any sect, denomination or political belief.

It is wrong to put into the mind of the child, who is not old enough to think for himself or herself, ideas that are prejudicial, ideas that will later incite to enmity and bad feeling. Such action is discrimination, is wrong, and is repugnant to the spirit and the letter of American institutions.

RETAIN COCKRELL.

The Baltimore Sun directs attention to the fact that the term of Ex-Senator Francis Marion Cockrell as member of the Interstate Commerce Commission is about to end. There are rumors that he will not be reappointed. He is no longer a young man, but is as fit for the position as any man that can be obtained.

He has already served five years on the Commission. There is no doubt that he has shown rare qualifications for the office. He has heard the evidence in the important investigations and cases now awaiting decision. A rare comprehension and understanding of great and vital questions has been displayed by Commissioner Cockrell in the work of the Commission for the last five years, in which work he has done his full share.

A brigadier-general in the Confederate army, Commissioner Cockrell began his service in the United States Senate in 1875. For thirty years he was a member of the higher branch of the National Legislature. Of the highest ability and character, he has made his work faultless. He is fair, judicial and honest. The only thing brought against him is his age. It is certain that that has not incapacitated him, and his long experience and admitted ability entitle him to be continued in office. He has had long training, he has rendered efficient service, and he is still able to render it. The reappointment of Commissioner Cockrell is to be desired.

THE GAS WORKS SITUATION.

The Times-Dispatch has neither charged nor asserted that there has been an explosion at the Gas Works. This paper has sought to print only the truth, and has had no idea of injuring any person or undertaking.

It is well known that on the floor of the Common Council on Monday night members of the Council Committee on Light declared that there had been an explosion at the Gas Works. On the strength of these statements, over the protest of Mr. Fuller, of the Finance Committee, who desired more information, the Council approved five resolutions allowing payment to employees of the Gas Works for time lost from work while injured. It appears that the Council voted for the five resolutions with the distinct understanding that there had been one explosion "some time in October." One member of the committee described this occurrence as "a flareback" or "backdraft."

On the morning after the action of the Council, which is a matter of record, was reported in this paper, Superintendent Knowles, of the Gas Works, who was not present at the Council meeting, by the way, vehemently denied that there had been any accident at the works and "demanded a retraction." He asserted that the report of the Council committee was injurious to him and to the work conducted under his direction.

The Times-Dispatch simply printed the proceedings of the Council committee. It reported what was said, and no more. The statement as to the accident was generally accepted by the Council, there was no denial entered at the time, and this paper simply repeated the remarks made in meeting.

It now appears, according to the committee records, that there were, as first made known in this paper, five separate and independent accidents. Instead of happening practically simultaneously, the accidents took place at different times and in different ways. Members of the Light Committee who have since looked into the matter assert that the claims are all meritorious and should be paid.

The facts that still stand out clearly are that the Council voted for the five resolutions under the impression that there was but one accident. Also, Superintendent Knowles has not withdrawn his positive denial that there was any accident, nor has he withdrawn his denunciation of the printed report of the Common Council.

The only reason to be derived from the facts here given is that before claims are ratified by any Council committee the committee should be in full possession of all the facts upon which the claim is based. So far as the previous statement of the proceedings in the Council is concerned, The Times-Dispatch has never attempted to make out that there was an explosion when there was not one. This paper was right, in the first instance when it re-

ported what had been said in Council, and it has striven simply to give a true and faithful report of the supposed facts upon which the Council acted.

THE BOOKS THAT HELPED.

The current Christian Endeavor World of Boston contains a symposium in which the books eminent people declare have been most helpful to them are set forth. It is a rather remarkable list.

Julia Ward Howe declared that she was most deeply indebted to Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." She quaintly said that in the first parties which she attended in her early social life she seemed to find "all of Bunyan's sinners and but few of his saints." Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and Spinoza were also especially helpful to her.

Joachim Miller, the poet of the Sleras, has found "most pleasure and profit" in the Bible, placing Plutarch's "Lives" next.

John Burroughs values Emerson's essays first and then the poems of Walt Whitman and Wordsworth. President Eliot places the Bible first and then acknowledges his great debt to the essays of Emerson and Bacon, which he has most frequently consulted for wisdom and advice.

Henry Cabot Lodge really doesn't know what book has influenced him most, but we should imagine that the writings of Alexander Hamilton have afforded him much comfort in his political actions.

"On the Wabash sixty or seventy years ago books were not plentiful," asserts Speaker Cannon, but he found his greatest profit in Plutarch's "Lives" and Rollin's "Ancient History." The Speaker confesses to a fondness for Shakespeare, having read with profit, we imagine, that masterly speech of the great Cardinal, "Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!" Burns is also to his liking. So are Scott and Dickens, while he says that he learned much from McMaster's "History of the People of the United States" and Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic."

Strange taste is exhibited by Will Carleton, the poet, who has received the greatest benefit from "The Philosophy of Health," by J. B. Coles, M. D. Shakespeare comes next in his heart.

Congressman-Elect Henry George, Jr., places first importance on the Bible, and then on his father's celebrated book, "Progress and Poverty." Edward W. Bok, the editor of a ladies' journal, prefers Emerson's Essays.

It would seem that the old favorites still hold their own. Few books are now written that will be anybody's first choice.

THE GROWTH OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

It is idle talk to say that with the death of Mrs. Eddy, the Christian Science Church will be disintegrated and will disappear. This Church is a much more powerful one in a physical sense than most people think. There are 957 churches and societies of this faith here and in foreign countries. The approximate number of those who follow Christian Science is about 320,000.

There are four churches in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Philippine Islands, four in Australia, six in Germany, one in the Channel Islands, three in Ireland, three in Scotland, one in Wales, two in Holland, one in Italy, two in Switzerland, one in the Bahama Islands, three in Canada, one in Panama, one in Porto Rico, two in the Argentine Republic. There are fifty churches in England proper.

In the United States and Canada there are 3,755 practicing healers. There are 266 in foreign countries. Healers are registered in practically every country in the Northern Hemisphere. Every State in the Union has at least one Christian Science Church.

The approximate value of edifices belonging to the Christian Scientists in America alone is \$25,000,000.

This growth and strength is remarkable when it is remembered that Christian Science is a comparatively new faith, and has achieved its principal growth in the last two decades.

An encouraging word comes from Chicago, where the National Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Association is now holding its annual convention. The hobble skirt, the long coat, and freakish hats have been tried, convicted and sentenced to death, and in 1911, we are told, the proper style will be an extension of the present hobble, sufficient to allow free and dignified use of feet and limbs, and the jacket will be shorter and not so much like a man's long coat, while the collar will be larger. This is fine! It shows among other things that popular opinion is still powerful in this country, and that women will not be permitted to make frights of themselves if the suit-makers and the fault finders can prevent.

Is the Newport News Times-Herald prophetic? It had a headline yesterday, "Dr. Wilson the New President." Everybody can guess why the Lynchburg News is fighting local option.

We should like to know why Brother Addison, of the Lynchburg News, failed to get Dr. Anna Blount, of Chicago, to speak in the local option campaign in his town.

Thousands of men have been employed to dig New York out of the snow. In Richmond, nothing of the sort is necessary, as this town is so situated that the snow runs off by itself when it gets ready. Wonderful town is Richmond on the James!

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Soil in Arctic Regions.
 In Arctic regions the ground is permanently frozen to a great depth, and the summer thaw affects only a small, though variable thickness of soil. The "perpetual ground ice" near Yakutsk, Siberia, has been found to have a depth of 282 feet. Good roads are reported for believing that it extends much deeper in some places, and at Point Barrow, the northernmost point of Alaska, about 16 degrees from the pole, the temperature at a depth of thirty-eight feet was 12 degrees Fahr., the estimate being made that there must have a total thickness of about 1,500 feet.

Shell Money.
 The shell money of the Indians is said to have been used by early settlers in America. In it known how this money was made, and what was its value?

T. R.
 The wampum is described as "shell-bead" manufactured with flints with much labor. Instead of using the natural state, like the cowries or small shells of India and Africa, it was made from the shells of white and dark-colored mollusks. One kind had the form of perforated disks compared to a peppermint lozenge in size and thickness, and the other consisted of short cylinders an eighth of an inch thick and two or three times as long. Both kinds were commonly strung on cords of some kind. Short strings of six to twenty-four beads were laid side by side and knotted closely together, forming belts of varied design from two to ten inches wide and two to eight feet long. Several of these valuable belts were usually exchanged in ratifying a treaty. Other money was so scarce that the white colonists were glad to "accept this for a time, and a Massachusetts law of 1637 made the Indian tender for any amount up to twelve pence, at the rate of six beads for a penny, while Connecticut made it legal tender for any amount, receiving it for taxes at the rate of four beads for a penny. In New York it was almost the only currency for half a century, its use in trade with the Indians being nearly to the middle of the nineteenth century.

CHRISTMAS TREE IS OF IRISH ORIGIN

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONTENAY.
 VERNON's proposal to tax the Christmas tree, with the object of placing some check upon the excessive cutting of young trees and saplings which take place every year in order to satisfy the demand for Christmas trees at Yuletide, serves to recall that the Christmas tree, in so far as its relation to Christianity is concerned, is distinctly of Irish origin.

It was the Hibernian Saint Columba, the most not be confounded with Saint Columba who engaged in converting the pagans of Germany and Switzerland to Christianity, found them so firmly imbued with the sacred character of trees, especially of the fir, that despoiling them by cutting to eradicate the cult from their minds, he and his fellow missionaries conceived the idea of endowing it with a Christian meaning.

Already in the seventh century the fir tree began to figure in Christian writings, pictures and carvings, as the symbol of eternal life and Scandinavian verdure and its brilliant lights: while popular legends dating from that epoch, represent the old man who at Yuletide visits each house, he is put to bed or hut, to grant the prayers and wishes of the inmates, as bearing a fir tree ablaze with candles. As the Christmas tree was introduced from Germany by Prince Albert, the Teuton consort of Queen Victoria.

It was Queen Dowager Christina who first set up the Christmas tree in Madrid for her children; while in France the Christmas tree may be said to have been introduced by the ex-patriated inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine, after the seizure of those provinces by the Germans, at the close of the war of 1870. It was determined in France to give the children of the ex-patriated Alsace and Lorraine a Christmas as much as possible like that to which they had been accustomed in their homes on the other side of the Vosges. The children's societies organized for the relief of the fugitives, took up the matter, and erected enormous Christmas trees, loaded with gifts, in the salons of the Hippodrome. The Parisians came and saw the trees, and were delighted with the idea, and now the Christmas tree almost as universal in France as it is in Germany, in Austria, in England and in this country, into which it was introduced by the German settlers at the close of the eighteenth century and in the first half of the nineteenth.

Baron Max Oppenheim, who was at one time a frequent visitor to this country, and who has been for many years now connected with the German legation in Cairo, has just been promoted to the rank of Minister Resident, which does not, however, mean that he is to take the place of Count Hermann Hatzfeldt, who is in charge of the mission, and who enjoys the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. Baron Oppenheim's connection with the mission in Cairo, has just been mentioned for the purpose of introducing him with an official and diplomatic status, so as to enable him to pursue with greater facility the work to which he has devoted the last ten or fifteen years.

This work is of a special character. It consists partly in the excavation of the ruined cities of Mesopotamia, and of the Egyptian valley; secondly, of the exploration of Arabia and of the regions lying to the west of Egypt; while the third and most important of his activities, is his German propaganda among the various Moslem tribes of northern and central Africa, in Arabia and in all that region which extends down from Asia Minor to the Persian Gulf.

Baron Oppenheim is one of the only two Hebrews in the diplomatic service of the Kaiser, the other being young Goldschmidt Rothschild, who is attached to the German embassy in London, and whose engagement has just been announced to Miriam Rothschild, of Paris, only sister of Baron James Rothschild, who spent November in touring through the United States, and who has just gone back to Europe.

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